



the gull

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April Membership Meeting

The featured speaker at our April general membership meeting will be Paul Covel, a long-time Audubon member and for many years the naturalist for the City of Oakland. Paul will present an illustrated discussion of wildflowers of the San Francisco Bay Area. This program has been scheduled to coincide with the height of the local wildflower season. Paul will suggest some of the best areas to look for wildflowers and tell us how to identify some of our common species.

This meeting will be at the Northbrae Community Church, 942 The Alameda, Berkeley, on Thursday, April 14, at 7:30 p.m.

—PROGRAM COMMITTEE

ANNUAL PICNIC AND MAY MEETING

The May general meeting and annual picnic will be held on Thursday, May 12, at Tilden Regional Park. After we picnic and go on nature walks, the program, sponsored by the Conservation Committee, will start at 7:30 p.m. A member of the Condor Research Group will make a presentation. As the group's activities are a focus of controversy among California birders, a lively discussion can be expected.

—TRUDI JACKSON

Field Trips Calendar

See the March *Gull* for the following trips:

Saturday, April 2—Lake Merced, San Francisco.

Sunday, April 3—Golden Gate Park, San Francisco.

Saturday, April 9—Bothe-Napa State Park.

Saturday, April 9—Beginners' Trip to Five Brooks, Bolinas Lagoon and Audubon Canyon Ranch.

Sunday, April 10—San Bruno Mountain County Park.

Wednesday, April 13—Mini-trip to Mitchell Canyon. We will meet at **9:30 a.m.** Take Hwy. 24 through the Caldecott Tunnel. At Walnut Creek take Ignacio Valley Rd. Go about five miles, turn right at Clayton. Go about a mile, make a right turn on Mitchell Canyon Rd. and go to the parking lot at the end of the read. This is a delightful area with easy streamside walking and many songbirds, especially Bewick's Wrens and Lazuli Buntings. Leaders: Delpha deTimofeev (632-5176) and Gertrude Bialis.

Saturday, April 16—Lake Merced, San Francisco. Meet at **8 a.m.** at the south end of Sunset Blvd. in the Merced Circle. This is a fine time to see spring migrants as well as many of the birds which winter in the area. We will caravan to Fort Funston to see Black Scoters and the Bank Swallow colony. Bring lunch, liquids and dress appropriately for cool coastal weather. We will bird until midafternoon. Leader: Dan Murphy (564-0074).

Sunday, April 17—Mines Rd., Livermore. Meet at **8 a.m.** in the parking lot of the Vineyard Shopping Center at S. Livermore and Pacific in Livermore. From there we will drive on mountain roads to Patterson. Bring food and liquids or buy lunch at the Branding Iron around noon. We can expect to see Northern Orioles, Lewis' Woodpeckers and Phainopeplas in this habitat. Roadrunners and Wild Turkeys have also been seen on this trip. Leader: Art Edwards (447-3720). (✓)

Saturday, April 23—Putah Creek. Meet at **9 a.m.** at the top of Monticello Dam at the east end of Lake Berryessa. From Napa, go north on Hwy. 121 to Hwy. 128 and east to the dam or take the Pleasant Valley Rd. from I-80 (about four miles east of Fairfield) north to Hwy. 128 and west to the dam. Bring lunch. We will bird the dam and along Putah Creek. Canyon and Rock Wrens, Phainopeplas, Northern Orioles and a wide variety of other resident species may be expected. Rain cancels trip. There is an entrance fee at Putah Creek. Leader: Bob O'Brien (526-8241). (✓)

Sunday, April 24—Alameda and San Leandro Shoreline. Meet at **9 a.m.** in Alameda, at Broadway and Shoreline Dr. We will bird the Elsie B. Roemer Bird Sanctuary and the San Leandro Bay Regional Shoreline. Toward the end of the day we will look for Burrowing Owls on Bay Farm Island. Be sure to bring lunch and liquids. We should see

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migrating shorebirds, many in breeding plumage. Bring a scope if you have one. Leader: Leora Feecey. (522-8525). (✓)

Saturday, April 30—San Andreas Lake and Lower Crystal Springs Reservoir. Meet at **8 a.m.** at the north gate of Sawyer Camp Bicycle Trail in Millbrae, San Mateo County. From San Francisco take Hwy. 280 south, exit at Larkspur Ave., go under the freeway, turn right on Skyline Blvd. and continue south to Hillcrest Blvd., turn right and go to the end of the road (the trailhead). From the south (Hwy. 92) go north on Hwy. 280 to the Millbrae Ave. exit. From Millbrae Ave. go north about a block and turn left at Hillcrest, follow it to the end and park. Bring lunch, liquids and footgear appropriate for hiking about seven miles. Leader: Alan Hopkins (585-5669). (✓)

Sunday, May 1—Bodega Bay. Meet at **9 a.m.** in the upper parking lot of the Tides Restaurant. The lot is located on the east side of Hwy. 1 next to the Union gas station. (Note: This station is shut down so do not plan to buy gas in Bodega Bay.) We will caravan around the harbor from here to observe the wide variety of shore and water birds that use this area as a stopover in migration. Be prepared to pay a \$2 day use fee per car at Doran Park. Dress warmly and wear comfortable walking shoes. Lunch optional. Camping is available at Doran or Bodega Dunes State Park and motel accommodations are reportedly good at the Best Western Bodega Bay Lodge (707-875-3525). Leader: Nancy Conzett (527-2593 or 707-875-2231). (✓)

Saturday, May 7—Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve. We will walk through this unique area during the morning in search of birds common to the arid interior valleys of the eastern Bay Area. Due to the midday heat, we will stop birding around noon so lunch is optional. Go north on Hwy. 24 to Hwy. 4 and go east to the Somersville Rd. exit (Antioch). Follow Somersville south to the park entrance where we will meet at **7 a.m.** For those who decide to stay in the afternoon we suggest exploring the archeological digs of the abandoned mining town. Mines in this area can be dangerous so don't explore abandoned sites. Bring liquids and boots. Water is limited and the terrain is rough. Leader: Dave Cornman (835-2106). (✓)

Saturday, May 14—Mt. Diablo State Park. Meet at **9 a.m.** at the Rock City parking area. From Oakland go east on Hwy. 24, then right on I-680 to Danville and follow the signs east on Diablo Rd. to the park. The first available parking is at Rock City, about one mile inside the south entrance station gate. Bring lunch and liquids. We will look for spring birds and wildflowers. Leader: Mary Louise Rosegay (386-1640). (✓)

Saturday/Sunday, May 14/15—Groveland to Hetch Hetchy for Bird Song and Pizza. This is the best time to explore the base of the Sierra for bird song and Papa Palmieri's Pizza Parlor in Groveland for the best pizza ever. We will visit Mud Lake, Akerson Meadows, Hetch Hetchy, walking four to five miles each day. Meet at Carlon Campground parking lot on Saturday at 8 a.m. Drive east on state Hwy. 120. One mile west of the entrance station to Yosemite, take Evergreen Rd. (to Hetch Hetchy). After 0.7 miles, turn right into camp parking area along the south fork of the Tuolumne River. Latecomers can find us birding along the river till 9:30 a.m. and later along Evergreen Rd. on the way to Hetch Hetchy. Consult camping directory for numerous campgrounds in the area. Sugar Pine Ranch Motel in Groveland (209-962-7823) along Hwy. 120 is the closest motel to the meeting place. Check with weatherman and bring appropriate clothing (it could snow). Leaders: Marie Mans (284-7681) and Ann Matteson (Foresta). (✓)

Note from the Field Trips Committee—Beginners are always welcome on GGAS field trips. Leaders and participants are eager to introduce newcomers to this activity which we all enjoy. From time to time the committee will plan trips especially for beginners. These trips will generally go to nearby areas to see resident species.

Saturday, May 7—Beginners' Trip to Briones Regional Park. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the parking lot past the Bear Valley entrance station. From Hwy. 24 take the Orinda exit to Camino Pablo and continue north for about two miles to Bear Creek Rd. (There is a sign to Briones Regional Park). Turn right and drive four miles east to the park entrance. Lunch optional. Leader: Gene Hull (525-6893). (✓)

Carpooling arrangements can be made for trips marked (✓). Call Kate Partridge at 236-9053 and leave a message. She will contact you.

Problems: If for any reason you have difficulty getting in touch with a field trip leader or need information regarding a trip, call Shirley Kelly (387-8290) or the GGAS office (843-2222).

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

February Observations — through February 23

LINGERING FROM EARLY WINTER

One consistent feature of winter is that many of the season's rarities stay several months. Under this heading I include those birds previously listed in this column that persisted into this reporting period.

Palo Alto's Least Bittern was seen again Feb. 13 (TC). The female King Eider was seen in the Emeryville Marina through at least Feb. 21 (mob, GH). The Hopkins Marine Station Harlequin Duck was still there Feb. 12 (fide MBRBA). Foster City continued to host the male

Smew through Feb. 17 (mob, BO'B). The Broad-winged Hawk north of Inverness was findable Jan. 29 (DQ) and Feb. 5 (HG, et al.) and the one at Marine World Parkway through Feb. 20 (JL, et al.).

Examination of the Spaletta Ranch fields revealed the seven Lesser Golden Plovers through Feb. 21 (mob, AG, WG). Bodega Head's Rock Sandpiper was still there Jan. 30 (DQ, KO, et al.). The **Little Gull** and **Common Black-headed Gull** have been so faithful at the Stockton Sewage Ponds that when each one finally disappears permanently we will probably be able to interpret the event as the end of its life span. Both were there through Feb. 18 (mob, JW, BA). The Eastern Phoebe wintering again in El Estero Cemetery in Monterey remained through Feb. 20 (SFB, et al.). At Hall Ranch, the **Eurasian Skylark** was seen again Jan 29 (DQ). A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was at Palo Alto Feb. 13 (KH) and a Swamp Sparrow in Olema Marsh was spotted Feb. 5 (IIG, et al.).

ADDITIONAL BIRDS

Both Monterey pelagic trips (Feb. 5 & 19) found Laysan Albatross (JD, GMcC, AB, TC, mob). On Feb. 5, seasonal rarities included two Pink-footed Shearwaters and an exceptional **Black Storm-Petrel** (JD, GMcC, et al.). A Cattle Egret was at Zmudowski State Beach Feb. 13 (fide MBRBA). Two Tufted Ducks were found Feb. 20. One was a female at Foster City (SB, WL) and the other was the male that has wintered at Mill Valley, discovered again and seen also Feb. 21 (BL, DT). As Oldsquaws continue to be scarce, two on or near San Francisco Bay are more noteworthy. One was on Lake Merritt Jan. 29 to Feb. 5 (RB, GC) and the other was at Point Richmond Feb. 17-24 (BR).

An additional Broad-winged Hawk was found at Moss Landing Feb. 8 (DR). A "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk was seen closely in Panoche Valley Feb. 12-13 (CC, GA, TC, mob). Several thousand gulls, mainly Mew, Bonaparte's and California, have been circling to pluck food off the silt-laden surf where the Salinas River Mouth is gushing runoff. An adult **Little Gull** spotted among them early this month (fide MBRBA) was still there Feb. 20 (SFB, et al.). A first-year Glaucous Gull was also reported roosting there Feb. 6 (fide MBRBA).

Exceptional is the adult male **Costa's Hummingbird** wintering in El Cerrito from Dec. 27 to this writing (JDa, GD, HG, AC). By Jan. 22 there were already two or three male Allen's Hummingbirds in Tilden Park (CB, et al.). An apparent Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was in Tomales Bay State Park Feb. 14 (DT, MF). Two Tennessee Warblers are wintering in a flowering bush in Carmel (DR, et al.).

Observers: Garth Alton, Bev Anderson, Stephen F. Bailey, Carol Baird, Alan Baldridge, Rich Briggs, Scott Burge, Chris Carpenter, Ted

Chandik, Graham Chisholm, Afton Crooks, Gordon Davis, Joyce Davis (JDa), Jon Dunn (JD), Ray Eckstrom, Mary Farr, Albert Ghiorso, Wilma Ghiorso, Helen Green, Kem Hainebach, George Hugenberg, Dick Johnson, Ned K. Johnson, Bill Lenarz, Wendy Lieber, John Luther, Guy McCaskie, many observers (mob), Monterey Bay Rare Bird Alert, Bob O'Brien, Kris Olson, Dave McQuady, Bob Richmond, Mike Robbins, Don Roberson, Malcolm Sproul, Dorothy Tobkin, John Westlake, Jack Whetstone (JW), Jon Zablackis.

—STEPHEN F. BAILEY, *Observations Editor*
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Something More for Mono Lake

The Asian Art Museum of San Francisco in Golden Gate Park is presenting a showing of 232 art objects of bronze, ceramics, paintings and applied arts (jade, lacquer, bamboo, ivory, wood, cloisonne) from the Shanghai Museum starting in May. The Mono Lake Committee has reserved time for a docent-led tour for 8:20 a.m. Saturday, June 18. At the special morning scheduling, visitors will be able to see all of the objects easily and will be able to move at their own pace without the crowding characteristic of the public exhibition hours. There will be the additional benefit of having the guidance and explanations of a specially-trained docent. Transportation via a chartered bus leaving from North Berkeley BART station at 7 a.m. will be provided for those wishing it. The fee includes the docent tour, refreshments at 10 a.m. and a donation to the Mono Lake Committee. All reservations must be received by May 14 and there will be no refunds.

For reservations please send a check payable to the Mono Lake Committee with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to M. Bennett, 2719 Marin Ave., Berkeley, CA 94708. The fee is \$9 for persons under 18 or over 65 (I.D. will be requested at the door) and \$11.50 for others. Bus transportation, if desired, is an additional \$4.50.

Mono Lake Slide Program

An 80-slide program depicting the scenic beauty, ecology and water controversy of Mono Lake is available at the GGAS office. This slide show has been assembled by the Mono Lake Committee and comes with a written script and a cassette tape narration by David Gaines. It is an excellent way of explaining Mono Lake's beauty and importance. If you know of local groups that are interested in learning more about Mono Lake you may borrow the slide show to make a presentation.

Conservation Notes

GYPSY MOTH UPDATE

Gypsy moths were found in the Berkeley/Kensington area last year. This year the pest will be closely monitored by Alameda County Agriculture Department (see Andrea Kicserman's article in the *Gull*, December, 1982).

Local environmentalists are concerned over two threats this presents to our community: (1) potentially severe damage to the urban plants from the leaf-eating caterpillars and (2) risks to the environment and human health if the State Department of Food and Agriculture uses carbaryl (Sevin) in an attempt to eradicate this insect, a real possibility for 1984.

Citizens for a Better Environment is organizing locally to initiate safe, effective control measures before state and county agencies schedule spraying. Methods effectively used in the East are being studied (although no one knows how the pest will behave in the West). Several techniques are being proposed: tree-banding to detect caterpillars in the spring, spring applications of *Bacillus thuringiensis* to kill actively feeding caterpillars, mass trappings to reduce male moth populations and to disrupt mating and a gypsy moth egg mass identification program to further detect and eliminate the moths. A public education program is also vitally necessary.

People interested in banding their own trees, helping with trapping and insect identification or getting involved in the educational aspects of the program may contact the CBE office at 777-1984 or Helen Green at 526-5943.

—CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

CONDOR UPDATE

As a result of action taken by the California Fish and Game Commission at its meeting in Los Angeles on March 3, the Condor Recovery Team may now take one immature free-flying condor and up to 50% of all nestlings hatched this year. This is in addition to the unpaired female condor and all first eggs laid this year. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had requested this change in the permit to capture condors for its captive breeding program. The Commission did not agree, however, to allow for the capture of two additional immatures of any sex which the Fish and Wildlife Service had also requested.

Most of the public testimony heard by the Commission concerned itself with the issue of taking nestlings. Except for those from the Los Angeles Zoo and the Condor Recovery Team, virtually every speaker

was against the taking of any nestlings this year since Commission has already allowed the taking of all first-laid eggs. The question brought up most frequently was that of stress on the breeding pairs — there are five pairs known. The Condor Recovery Team has assumed that, if a pair loses both its first egg and its nestling from a second breeding attempt, the pair will attempt to breed again next year rather than wait until the following year as it normally would if it raised a chick this year. The Team has, however, no data from California Condors to show that this will indeed happen. If it does not, virtually all of this year's reproduction will be lost to the wild population, and there will be no replacement for any wild birds lost through mortality.

The Commission's Condor Advisory Committee recommended that no nestlings be taken unless they represented reproduction from pairs not already represented in the captive population and that no additional immatures be taken. Unfortunately, the Commissioners paid no heed to the Committee's recommendations, preferring rather to accept the Department of Fish and Game staff recommendations.

It is to the credit of the Commission that its members questioned the timing of release of captive birds to the wild. To date no one has given any schedule of release and some have given the impression that captive propagation is the be-all and end-all of the program.

In late February, one egg was removed from a nest and sent to the San Diego Wild Animal Park for incubation. At the March 3 meeting, one commissioner asked about the egg's status. Noel Snyder of the Condor Recovery Team replied that no abnormalities had been found so far. The egg should hatch some time early in April after which the hatchling will be removed to the Los Angeles Zoo so it can interact with other condors already in captivity. Dr. Snyder also reported that the pair which laid the egg is now investigating nest sites — they have checked six nest sites since the egg was taken. This is the same pair which double-clutched last year.

—JON ZABLACKIS

Audubon Camp of the West

GGAS again offers a scholarship to the Audubon Camp in the West. The 1983 camp will be held at Trail Lake Ranch near Dubois, Wyoming. The purpose of the camp is to increase the camper's knowledge and understanding of the natural world, appreciation and affection for nature, and sense of individual responsibility for the wise use of its resources. The scholarship recipient will be expected to use the experience gained to help GGAS in its conservation efforts. If interested, please call the GGAS office soon.

The Back Yard Birder

Although they do far more good than harm, there are times when our feathered friends can become a nuisance. Because nearly all North American species are protected to some degree by law, corrective rather than vindictive action should be considered.

During the courtship and breeding season you may have noted a male bird attacking your window or your hubcaps. Catching sight of his reflected image, the bird is merely defending his territory from what he perceives to be another male. His success in attracting a mate is dependent upon his setting up a territory and driving out rival males. It's sad to see him waste his energies upon his own reflection! You can remove the reflective effect by taping newspaper on the window or clouding it with glass wax.

Birds often crash into windows, especially during migration. Drunken robins and Cedar Waxwings are a problem as are birds at a feeder near a window. In such cases, the window "wins" (only a very large bird can damage your glass). The bird may be stunned temporarily or, too frequently, may be killed. Many natural history stores stock cut-out silhouettes of hawks or falcons to be stuck on windows. However, anything which corrects the impression that glass is air or reduces the window's reflections (curtains, tape or wax) will solve the problem.

Woodpeckers who chip away at your home are another annoyance. There is no easy answer here because there seem to be different reasons for their hammering. An Acorn Woodpecker may decide to store his cache in your shake roof. A Flicker may use a downspout to drum out passionate rhythms to impress his lady-love. Because woodpeckers may actually hear insects in the wood of the house they may consider themselves helpful exterminators. What to do? If you *don't* have termites, harass the bird by shooing it away or spraying it with a hose. Generally this will discourage the offender. If a bird is concentrating on a favorite spot you can cover this temporarily with a sheet of plywood. The following techniques do NOT work: plastic owls, rubber snakes, painting or spraying with a woodpecker repellent (there is no such thing as yet).

An oft-heard complaint is that larger birds are hogging the feeder. At one time I had a flock of Band-tailed Pigeons who were fast gobbling up seed and endangering people and the surrounding area with their droppings. Being "bombed" by a bird of such a large size was not my husband's idea of adventure on his way to get the newspaper! My solution was to move the feeder from its open area to a place less accessible for landings and take-offs. As for the prevalent and often aggressive jays, I've learned to tolerate them. Initially they scare the smaller birds

away, but after scattering seed about, they depart. The other birds return and the ground-feeding species find their meal all ready for them.

Can you believe that some people consider the song of a Mockingbird during a warm, moonlit night to be a nuisance? Imagine preferring the sound of passing traffic to one of nature's midnight concerts, augmented by a chorus of frogs and the duet of a pair of Great-horned Owls. Sorry, but in such cases I think it's a people problem, not a bird problem. The complainer should take a moment to reassess his values and to feel fortunate to have the opportunity to enjoy a bit of life as it might have been before life became so "civilized."

—MEG PAULETICH

Spring Birding Classes and Trips

Dr. Stephen F. Bailey continues his series of courses sponsored by GGAS at Albany Adult School. He will also lead optional day and weekend birding trips, loosely associated with these classes but not prerequisite.

Spring Shorebirds will cover all but the rarest of our spring shorebird species. The status, habitat preferences and both winter and breeding plumages of each species will be taught. Three Tuesday slide lectures are April 12, 19 and 26 (7-9 p.m.). Two six-hour field trips to the bay shores are also included.

Desert Area Specialties consists of three Wednesday evening slide lectures, April 20, 27 and May 4 (7-9 p.m.). It will introduce those landbird species that are found in spring in the Mojave Desert, Morongo Valley, around the Salton Sea or along the Colorado River, but which do not reach the Bay Area or barely do so. This class will be an excellent preparation for the following optional, privately-sponsored excursion:

Weekend Desert Trip. Last spring's popular desert weekend will be repeated with major improvements and an optional Monday-Tuesday extension. The basic weekend will visit Edwards Marsh, Joshua Tree National Monument and Morongo Valley. Those able to continue through Tuesday will also bird the north end of the Salton Sea, the Colorado River, the eastern Mojave Desert and perhaps will visit Mitchell Caverns. This route and the dates (May 7-8, extension 9-10) were selected to be optimal for seeing most of the area's specialty breeding birds plus many late spring migrants. Enrollment is limited and preference may be extended to people able to participate for all four days.

Spring Vagrant Landbirds focuses on the eastern landbirds (especially warblers) that stray to our coast during June. In addition to introducing the species and the local status of each, this course will discuss many aspects of landbird vagrancy and vagrant finding in the Bay Area. The four evening slide lectures are every Tuesday in May

except May 10 when we will be in the desert. Optional day vagrant-hunting trips to Point Reyes will be offered in June.

For information on any course or optional trip call Steve at 548-9507. To register in one or more classes call the Albany Adult School at 527-6811 or attend the first meeting of the class.

Spring Birding Classes—Bodega Marine Laboratory

Pelagic Birds—Bodega Bay on Saturday, April 9, with the ultimate destination Cordelle Banks, approximately 28 miles off Bodega Head, will be a trip giving a great variety and abundance of seabirds. Fee to be announeed; trip limited to 20 persons.

Shore and Waterbirds of Bodega Bay, on Saturday, April 16, will be an intensive day spent birding the lagoons, mudflats, beaches, river mouths, breakwaters, harbors and rocky shores of Bodega Bay and the adjaeent areas. Special emphasis will be given to foraging strategies, population studies, identification, territoriality and seasonal abundanees. In the evening there will be an optional slide leecture on the breeding shorebirds of Alaska. Fee is \$10; trip limited to 20 persons.

Spring Migrants, Resident and Wintering Birds on Saturday, April 23, is an opportunity to observe the rich variety of birds in probably the most productive section of Sonoma County. Emphasis will be plaeced on natural history, songs and ealls, identifiication and distribution. Fee is \$10; trip limited to 20 persons.

Information and registration is available from Craig Hohenberger after 5 p.m. at 707-865-1286 or BML, P.O. Box 247, Bodega Bay, CA 94923.

Birding Classes in Fremont

Another series of birding field trips sponsored by the Fremont Adult School and led by Alice Hoch of the Ohlone Audubon Society will start April 26. A different birding spot is visited each week.

Classes are from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon on Tuesday mornings, ending May 31. Registration will be at 9:30 a.m. on April 26 at the Fremont Adult School, 4700 Calaveras Ave., Fremont. Be prepared to go into the field that morning. For information plase call Community Education at 791-5841.

Alameda Bird Walks

Six Tuesday morning bird walks are offered by the Alameda Reereation Department beginning April 5. Led by GGAS past-President Patrieia Boese, the walks are planned to introduce beginners to close-to-home birds of baekyards, parks and the bay shoreline. The fee is \$21. For information phone 522-4100 x 227 or 339-8374.

Pelagic Trips

A variety of offshore boat trips sponsored by Shearwater Journeys is being offered for the spring and fall. These excursions are moderately priced and are led by some of the most qualified pelagic leaders on the West Coast. Features of the trips include sightings of seabirds and marine mammals seldom seen from shore. Past trips have produced excellent views of albatross, shearwaters, petrels, alcids, dolphins and whales. Further information on these excursions can be obtained by writing to Debra Love Shearwater, 362 Lee St., Santa Cruz, CA 95060, or by calling her at 408-425-8111.

Natural History Study Tours—1984

During the winter months of 1984 trips are planned to Trinidad and Tobago, to Costa Rica and to Ecuador, the Amazon and the Galapagos Islands. Tours are limited to 15 participants. A brochure giving full details may be obtained by writing to the tour leader, Hala Araj, 5326 Thomas Ave., Oakland, CA 94168.

New in Our Library

We tried in vain to get *The California Water Atlas* from the publishers for our library at the price of a *Gull* review. Sales were higher than they had expected, I'm sure, and in the end we bought our new copy at Cody's—their last. Perhaps that says something for the water "issue" in California. Finally, there is interest in that most important question of the Southwest, water policy.

The California Water Atlas is a product of the Brown administration's Office of Planning and Research and is one of those rare projects, started before Jarvis and Proposition 13, that survived afterwards, miraculously unscathed. Its ultimate purpose is to enhance "the role in shaping public policy in this critically important area." If enough people do get a look at *The Atlas*, that purpose should succeed.

The book is a two-foot tall folio, better to represent the wealth of cartography displayed inside. It opens with one of its most important charts, "The Hydrologic Balance of California." Budgeted in its clear yet intricate three-color design rests the water supply of California as best we know it. Below the picture, the caption of the chart tells us how much water we have (rather than, as many a Southern Cal engineer would prefer, how much we want) and how it cycles through the state. Its sources, its paths and its eventual destination are shown, as it runs off, evaporates, is transpired or is stored. The complexity of the chart allows

for a lot of time spent viewing it, but the complexity rests in several levels. A quick glance will illustrate generally how water moves and where it comes from in the state, while a longer look will allow more and more to surface from the aesthetic beauty of its design, including many percentages and figures that support the design.

The rest of the book is made up of more than a hundred pages of maps, charts and graphs (after all, it is an atlas) and, underlining all, a narrative that does not try to place blame or credit, but instead outlines the history and the problems that make up California's water predicament. The chapters proceed from "The Natural Endowment" to "The Advent of Human Settlement" and the changes that settlement brought, "Urban Development and the Rise of Public Control" (Hetch Hetchy and the Los Angeles Water System). From "The Colorado River" and "The Great Valley Systems" to "The Operation of the Modern Water System" is a correlation of state water use and the questions of the future, not least of which are the Delta, Groundwater Management and Conservation of Water Resources.

Included throughout are cameos, as well, of such public figures as John Muir and State Senator Peter Behr; one suffered the loss of Hetch Hetchy, the other saw the passage of Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (now under attack.) William Mulholland, primary in the formation of Metropolitan Water District, is sketched, as is the history of that villain, the Met. A new facet of its history that I learned was not unfavorable; the loss of the Owens Valley farmland to the Water District's pumps also secured some prime desert lands from development.

The California Water Atlas can give you a thorough grounding in the water policy that we're all likely to be subjected to in the next few years. Los Angeles and the Met may be attempting to kill Mono Lake, but neither are the northern cities faultless and we can't afford to remain ignorant any longer. Curious and Monkeywrench Gangsters alike, come take a look.

—SETH ADAMS

Attention, Teachers

Living Lightly in the City, a curriculum guide for urban environmental education, published by the Schlitz Audubon Center in Wisconsin, is an introduction to a wide variety of environmental concerns from air pollution to garbage disposal and urban sprawl and the pressures of population growth.

The Schlitz curriculum presents environmental concepts in such a manner that students learn how the lives of the city people depend on natural resources. Studying waste disposal, the students visit a city land-fill and afterwards catalogue the amount of disposable packaging

involved in a day's shopping trip to the local supermarket. Throwaway packaging is then contrasted with plant and animal material the students find in a natural ecosystem.

In another exercise the students interview passersby on the street. They find out how many of these people have moved in recent years from the city to the suburbs and how they commute. The students then discuss how the trend is affecting the surrounding area and how land use planning can help prevent urban sprawl.

Also just received: *Just Open the Door*, a complete guide to experiencing environmental education, activities and lesson plans.

Meet Our New Executive Director

Hillary Hulen has replaced Andrea Kieserman as GGAS Executive Director. She graduated in biology, attended Portland State College and Southern Oregon College. She and her husband formerly published the *Bay Area Naturalist*. They are primarily interested in bird carving. She is a wildlife illustrator, regularly appearing in several magazines. She worked for the U.S. Park Service for five years and has taught for four years.

High School/College Student Jobs

Application forms are available at the GGAS office for summer jobs at Audubon Camps in Wisconsin and Maine. Call for information.

Cooper's Meeting

On Monday, April 11, 1983, Steve Laymon from UC Berkeley Department of Forestry will give a talk entitled, "Spotted Owls: Their populations and habitat requirements in California."

Steve has been studying these elusive and fascinating birds for several years, and his talk promises rich information on his past research and a view into his future research plans.

The presentation will begin at 8 p.m. in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley and will be preceded by a business meeting at 7:45 p.m. All interested in birds are encouraged to attend.

From the Ranch

As our wet spring continues, Audubon Canyon Ranch prepares to open its twenty-first public season at Picher Canyon. Starting Saturday, March 5, the Ranch will be open from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on weekends, holidays and during Easter week through July 4 without charge. Groups may make arrangements for guided tours during the week by calling

the secretary, Mrs. Edris Cole, at 383-1644. The Ranch is closed on Mondays.

This year the newly rebuilt Exhibit Hall and Bookstore complex will be in use. The original building was found to be unsafe after many years of deterioration. The new building has been constructed to duplicate the original historic structure. The new bookstore is expanded and an office work room and file room have been added. The Ranch is grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Paul L. Wattis and the San Francisco Foundation for making this work possible.

The Heronry, with its early arrivals courting and nest building, and the trails, meadows, streams and woods are presenting their annual show. More than 20,000 visitors usually throng our lands during this period. We welcome the early arrivals from this appreciative public.

—CLIFFORD CONLY Jr.

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The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of Directors. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. to Minnie Groshong, Corresponding Secretary, Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2718 Telegraph Ave., #206, Berkeley, CA 94705-1179. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in *The Gull* as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Corresponding Secretary.



Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

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THE GULL

April 1983

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Send address changes to office promptly; Post Office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$25 per year (individual); \$32 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$6 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$15 per year. Senior citizen individual \$17, senior citizen family \$19. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

The Gull deadline is the first of the month for the following month.

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